

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 23 June 2011
Report of: Head of Legal and Property Services
Title: Budget Panel Update

1.0 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Annual Council on 25 May 2011 agreed the new scrutiny structure for Watford Borough Council. The new structure comprises an overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee to manage the scrutiny process, Budget Panel as a standing sub-committee and Task Groups, which will be set up as required.
- 1.2 The first meeting of Budget Panel for the 2011/12 Municipal Year is to be held on 22 June 2011.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the reports presented to Budget Panel on 22 June 2011.

Contact Officer:

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Committee and Scrutiny Officer
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Report approved by: Jason McKenzie, Legal and Democratic Section Head

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 Under the new scrutiny structure Budget Panel has been set up as a standing sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.2 Committee Membership

Following the appointment of Members to Budget Panel at Annual Council, the Head of Legal and Property Services was informed that the Conservative Group wished to make a permanent change of membership. The Group Leader advised that Councillor Meerabux would be replacing Councillor Mortimer. The change in membership would be confirmed at the first meeting.

3.3 Vice-Chair

At Annual Council Members were unable to elect a Vice-Chair for Budget Panel. Both Members nominated for the position declined to have their names put forward. Council was informed that the Vice-Chair would be elected at Budget Panel's first meeting on 22 June 2011. The Committee and Scrutiny Officer will advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the name of the Vice-Chair.

3.4 The following reports were presented to Budget Panel at its meeting on 22 June 2011 –

- Corporate Process Improvement Programme
- Harlow Value for Money Study
- Housing Value for Money Review Phase 1
- Budget Panel Work Programme 2011/12

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that the reports presented to the first meeting of the Budget Panel are all related to identifying process and service efficiencies in order to meet reduced levels of central government funding.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Legal and Democratic Section Head comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

4.3 **Potential Risks**

None identified.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

Minutes – Annual Council 25 May 2011

Agenda – Budget Panel 22 June 2011

File Reference

None